

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03  
PM-05 H-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13  
/090 W

-----121636 250519Z /11

R 241610Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9535

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 05659

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: UR, US, EAIR, PINS  
SUBJECT: YET ANOTHER ATTACK ON USG ANTI-HIJACKING POLICY

REF: MOSCOW 2781

SUMMARY: THE SOVIET PRESS HAS ONCE AGAIN ATTACKED THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE BRAZINSKAS CASE, AND APPARENTLY GENERALIZED FROM THE BRAZINSKAS CASE TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE USG WOULD NOT CONSIDER THE HIJACKING OF ANY SOVIET AIRCRAFT AS AN ACT OF TERRORISM. END SUMMARY.

1. VOZDUSHNYY TRANSPORT MARCH 23 PUBLISHED YET ANOTHER SOVIET ATTACK ON WHAT IT TERMS US GOVERNMENT HYPOCRISY IN THE HANDLING OF THE BRAZINSKAS CASE. (MARCH 23 PRAVDA CARRIES TASS ITEM ON WHICH VT ARTICLE IS BASED, ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS FULL TEXT). IT REPORTS THAT A STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE, RESPONDING TO A QUESTION BY A TASS CORRESPONDENT AT A DEPARTMENT PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 22, STATED "CYNICALLY" THAT "THE CONCERN OF THE USA TOWARD  
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INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM DOES NOT ENCOMPASS THE CASE OF THE BRAZINSKAS." THE ARTICLE REPORTS THAT ANOTHER REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN A CONVERSATION WITH A TASS CORRESPONDENT, STATED THAT THE "DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN GENERAL DOES NOT CONSIDER THE HIJACKING OF A/THE SOVIET PLANE (UGON SOVETSKOGO SAMOLYOTA) AS AN ACT OF TERRORISM OR AS A CRIME."

2. IN A VT COMMENTARY TO THE ARTICLE, VIKTOR VALENTINOV WHO HAS SIGNED ARTICLES IN LITERATURNAYA GAZETA ATTACKING WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS, AND WHICH MAY BE A COLLECTIVE NAME OF THE MFA, STATES THAT THE WHITE HOUSE ITSELF SUBORDINATES THE SECURITY AND INTERESTS OF ITS OWN CITIZENS TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. ACCORDING TO HIM, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF CREATING A SECRET ARMY GROUP, WHICH WILL DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH TERRORISTS OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF THE UNITED STATES. HE ARGUES THAT THE USG MUST CREATE THIS GROUP -- WHICH HE CLAIMS WILL RISK THE LIVES OF HOSTAGES ON AIRCRAFT -- SINCE THE USG WOULD HAVE TO RETURN THE BRAZINSKAS TO THE SOVIET UNION, WERE IT TO ADHERE TO THE SIMPLE PRINCIPLE OF RETURNING HIJACKERS TO THE COUNTRY WHOSE AIRLINER WAS SUBJECTED TO THE ATTACK OF BANDITS.

3. COMMENT: BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: VOZDUSHNYY TRANSPORT'S DISTORTION OF USG POLICY FITS IN WITH OTHER ANTI-US MANIFESTATIONS IN THE SOVIET PRESS. FOR THE FIRST TIME, AN ARTICLE APPEARS TO GENERALIZE FROM WHAT IT TERMS THE "HYPOCRISY" IN THE HANDLING OF THE BRAZINSKAS CASE, TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE USG DOES NOT CONSIDER THE HIJACKING OF A SOVIET PLANE TO BE AN ACT OF TERRORISM (LAST SENTENCE OF PARA ONE ABOVE). CERTAINLY, THIS PASSAGE IS AMBIGUOUS, SINCE IT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS "A" OR "THE" CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIET AIRCRAFT (THE FORMER REFERRING TO SOVIET AIRCRAFT IN GENERAL, THE LATTER TO THE AIRCRAFT WHICH THE BRAZINSKAS HIJACKED). HOWEVER, THE PASSAGE ITSELF COULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN WITHOUT THE AMBIGUITY, HAD A SIMPLE DEFINITE ADJECTIVE (FOR EXAMPLE "ETOGO") BEEN ADDED. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. END COMMENT. TOON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, POLICIES, TERRORISTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 24 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** EAIR, PINS, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014